

The Herald

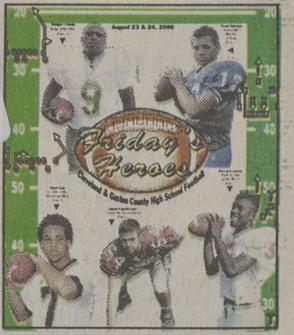
Thursday, August 24, 2000

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inside today's Herald

Ex-Chief sues KM, Manager

Maney says Hayes' accusations false

BY ALAN HODGE
Staff Writer

Former Kings Mountain police chief and current councilman Bob Hayes has filed a lawsuit against both the City of Kings Mountain and city manager Jimmy Maney. The suit filed in Superior Court on



HAYES

August 17 and served Tuesday alleges wrongful discharge and infliction of emotional distress. It asks for compensatory and punitive damages in excess of \$10,000

in both areas.

"The allegations are not true," Maney said. "We will defend against them vigorously."

According to the suit, filed by attorney W. Robinson Deaton, Jr. of Shelby, Maney advised Hayes in July 1997 that if he entered the race for Kings Mountain city council, he would be in violation of the personnel policy and would be fired.

The suit goes on to say that Hayes resigned his job as police chief on August 1, 1997 rather than be fired from that position due to his entering the race as a candidate for city council.

The suit contains four claims for relief. The first claim is for violation of First Amendment and Fourteenth Amendment rights under the Constitution. The claim says that Hayes' resignation was "a gross, wanton, reckless and intentional disregard for plaintiff's Federal Constitutional rights and was done with actual malice."

The second claim for relief is for violation of State Constitutional Rights and says in part the "defendants' pattern and practice of violating plaintiff's Constitutional rights as alleged herein amounted to an official policy or custom of delivered indifference to the plaintiff's rights under the Constitution of North Carolina."

The third claim is for alleged wrongful discharge and wrongful suspension. It states Hayes' work record with the city and says that "the defendants' actions violated North Carolina General Statutes 160A-169 in violation of plaintiff's statutory rights to engage in political activity."

Emotional distress is listed as the fourth claim for relief. It states that Hayes suffered "mental anguish and emotional distress entitling him to compensatory damages in a sub-

See Hayes, 3A

RADAR CHECK

Kings Mountain Police Department will be running radar next week on the following streets.

Monday, Aug. 28 - Cleveland Avenue.

Tuesday, Aug. 29 - East King near Canterbury Rd.

Wed., Aug. 30 - Margrace Rd.

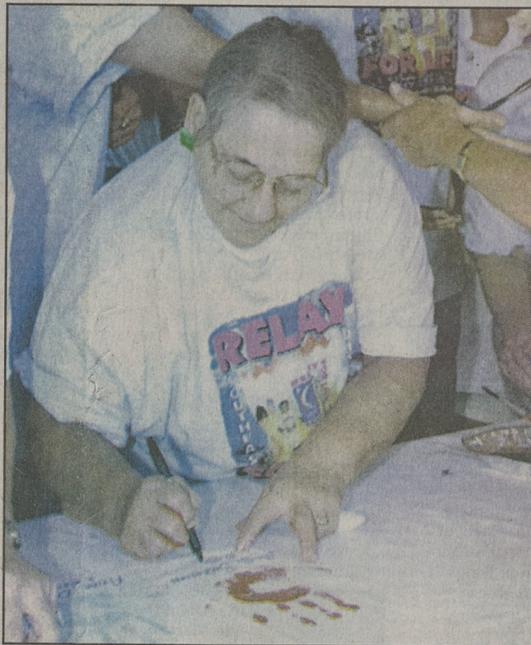
Thurs., Aug. 31 - North Candler St.

Fri., Sept. 1 - West Mountain St.

Relay for Life

Over 220 walkers, including a large number of cancer survivors, turned out Saturday morning for the Joseph R. Smith Relay for Life and raised over \$33,000 to find a cure for cancer. In photo at right, Bette Buchanan, who has been cancer free for 11 months, signs her hand print on a large, white tablecloth inside the Relay tent. In photo below, Buchanan and other cancer survivors walk the first lap to lead-off the annual event at the Kings Mountain Walking Track on Cleveland Avenue.

GARY STEWART / THE HERALD



KM volunteers vow to someday turn cancer fight into celebration

By GARY STEWART
Editor of The Herald

Not even heavy rain, hail and winds that destroyed most of the luminaries and tents could dampen the spirits of some 225 volunteers who raised over \$33,000 to find a cure for cancer in Kings Mountain's third annual Joseph R. Smith Relay for Life Saturday at the Walking Track on Cleveland Avenue.

Even though the rain wiped out Friday's planned activities and all-night walk, volunteers were back on the scene at 8 a.m. Saturday for a six-hour walk which was the town's most successful ever.

In two previous Relays, volunteers raised \$25,000 and \$24,000, respectively, and by the time this year's contributions are finally totaled Relay officials hope to top their goal of \$40,000.

Mike Neely, Chairman for the third straight year, said because of the storm walking teams have been given until August 28 to gather more support. Any persons who weren't able to give last weekend but would still like to help may do so through any of the teams, or by mailing a check to KM Relay for Life, c/o Mike Neely, P.O. Box 1275, Kings Mountain, NC 28086.

The late Friday afternoon storm which caused major power outages and downed trees and power lines in the county also almost completely destroyed the 15 or more tents set-up by Relay volunteers earlier in the day. The only structure to survive was the appropriately named David Baptist Church "Survivors" lean-to, and that's only because they erected it with wooden poles



Arlene McMurtry gives Mayor Rick Murphrey a hair cut for a donation to Relay for Life

that were set into the ground. All of the tents and other structures that were constructed on top of the ground, including the huge 40 x 60 foot executives' tent for Relay for Life officials, were blown down. In addition, most of the 280 luminaries that were placed around the track in honor and in memory of cancer victims were destroyed. The group lit a single candle on Saturday to represent all of them.

One man who was trying to hold down a tent was picked several feet off the ground by the driving wind, which also blew dirt and the small gravel from the Walking Track all over the area and, for a short time, made it almost impossible to see from one side of the track to the other.

Approximately 15 people who were trying to hold down the executives' tent had it come crashing

down on them. They got soaked, but no one was injured.

"We were very fortunate that no one got hurt," said Neely. "Most of the folks were just trying to complete their set-up when the storm hit, and just about everything got destroyed."

Some of the campers which walking teams set up to spend the night in on Friday received minor damage.

The only group to stick it out for the night was the Vestibule A.M.E. Zion Church group, and they helped spread the word to folks coming to support the walkers that the event had been postponed until Saturday.

"Pretty much all of the teams that were there to walk returned on Saturday morning," Neely noted. "The folks in Kings Mountain are really supporting us."

Vestibule A.M.E. Zion Church won the award for Heart of the Relay. The David Baptist Church Survivors won most creative camp site, most creative name, and most spirited. Neely said the award for the team raising the most money will be given at a wrap-up party in September.

Neely pointed out that the Relay has grown from eight teams its first year to 19 this year, and that they will never stop this fight. He stressed that, even when a cure for cancer is found, the event will continue as a "party to celebrate."

Most folks participating in the Relay have been affected by cancer in one way or another. Neely got inspired to participate three years ago because his father, Knox, had

See Relay, 5A

KM gets \$749,000 grant for water line

By GARY STEWART
Editor of The Herald

The City of Kings Mountain has received a \$749,046.87 Community Development Block Grant to help finance water lines in some of the city's recently-annexed communities.

The city's share of the total project, which will cost \$1,049,046.87, is \$300,000.

Lines will be provided along Galilee Church Road, Bible Way Church Road, Lewis Curry Road, Pat Drive, Pat Court, Hillway Drive and Lake Montonia Road. The project should begin in the spring of 2001 and will be completed by June 30, 2002.

It will consist of 15,985 linear feet of water lines and supply water to 113 housing units. Taps are free when the lines are installed. The 3/4-inch tap fee is normally \$400.

"This is exciting for the city," said Mayor Rick Murphrey. "We competed against cities across the state for this grant. The city staff did an excellent job in presenting this to the state. We will continue to look at all of the different areas that we can apply for Community Development Block Grants to improve the quality of life for all citizens."

The Galilee Church Road line will be a 12-inch line running from York Road and continuing about 2,500 feet down Galilee Church Road. The remainder of Galilee Church Road to City Lake Road will have an 8-inch line installed.

A 12-inch line will be run along Lake Montonia Road, an 8-inch line will be installed on Hillway Drive, 6-inch lines will be installed on Pat Drive, Lewis Curry Road and Bible Way Church Road, and a 2-inch line will be installed on Pat Court.

City repairing leak on line near Armory

The City of Kings Mountain is busy this week repairing a leak in the casing of the 18-inch water line going under U.S. Highway 74 near the National Guard Armory.

The casing developed a leak three weeks ago, but repair could not be made until fittings were ordered and received. The cost of the emergency project is approximately \$80,000.

The leak occurred near the point where the 24-inch main line from Moss Lake to town connects to an 18-inch line.

City Manager Jimmy Maney said there has been no interruption in water service because of the problem.

The city hopes to complete the project by the end of next week.

Grover businessman Tommy Keeter dies

BY ALAN HODGE
Staff Writer

Grover lost one of its driving civic and business leaders when Tommy Keeter passed away last Wednesday. A former educator and entrepreneur, Keeter was also a key figure in Grover's First Baptist Church. He was 64-years-old.

"I knew Tommy all his life," said Grover town councilman Jack Herndon. "He was a mighty good man. He was one of the leading citizens of Grover and made many contributions to the town."

A native of Cleveland County, Keeter was the son of Marie Roberts Keeter and J.T. Keeter. He was a long time member of First Baptist Church in Grover and had served in many capacities including superintendent of Sunday School, deacon, usher, and on numerous church committees.

Keeter was also a graduate of Appalachian State University and had been a teacher in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System. He had served Grover as a city councilman and was on the committee to build a public library in Grover. Keeter and his father operated a well-known furniture store in town.

"He was good to work with on the town council," said friend Bill McCarter. "He was a good, faithful worker in his church and town."



KEETER



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